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3-5-2003

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### Recommended Citation

"Daniel Curran to be Installed as University of Dayton President, April 10-12 Celebration to Focus on Community Partnership" (2003). *News Releases*. 9838.  
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March 5, 2003  
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## NEWS RELEASE

### **DANIEL CURRAN TO BE INSTALLED AS UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON PRESIDENT, APRIL 10-12 CELEBRATION TO FOCUS ON COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

DAYTON, Ohio — The University of Dayton will hold a presidential installation this spring — for only the second time in its history. The installation of Daniel J. Curran as the University of Dayton's 18th president is slated for April 10-12.

It will have all the pomp and circumstance of a formal academic ritual with a mixture of prayer, a little song and dance at the Victoria Theatre, a night of baseball at Fifth Third Field and a focus on the University as community citizen.

The installation starts with a 4 p.m. Mass for the University community on Thursday, April 10, in the Immaculate Conception Chapel. Later that evening, hundreds of faculty, staff, students and alumni are expected to enjoy dinner at one of the downtown restaurants before a "Celebration of the Arts," an all-student gala performance, at 8 p.m. at the Victoria Theatre. Claire Renzetti, Curran's wife, will host the event.

Tickets, which will be available mid-March, are \$5, and all proceeds will benefit the arts at UD. Call the Kennedy Union box office at 229-2545.

"The 'Celebration of the Arts' night is going to be a wonderfully fun, engaging evening," said Donna Cox, chair of the music department. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Dayton Jazz Ensemble, Ebony Heritage Singers, University Chorale and a theatre group will perform.

On Friday, April 11, Curran will help present the annual Mattie Davis and Joe Kanak Community Builders Award at the 18th annual CityLinks neighborhood conference on campus. Joyce Ladner, author of *The New Urban Leaders*, will keynote the luncheon. The cost is \$15 for the conference and lunch. Call the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community at 229-4641 for reservations.

Neighborhood leaders will join faculty, staff, students, delegates of other universities and professional associations, alumni, community leaders and the general public at the 3 p.m. installation ceremony in the Frericks Convocation Center. A reception will follow. It's free and open to the public. Reservations are not required.

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Curran, a sociologist by training, will give an address that focuses on UD's role as citizen of the Dayton community and the leadership challenges it presents in the future. A video presentation will highlight how UD's presidents throughout history have partnered with the Dayton community — from harboring residents during the 1913 flood to taking steps to protect children and families.

Curran will trade his academic robe for a Dragons' cap, as he tosses out the first pitch at the 7 p.m. sold-out season opener against the Peoria Chiefs. About 150 honors and scholars students are expected to attend the game.

Saturday, April 12, has been tagged "Community Day," featuring a snapshot of events that illustrates UD's connection to the Dayton community. Some examples: Students in David Herrelko's "Introduction to Engineering Design" course will work one-on-one with Dayton-area children to take apart and refurbish about 100 donated bicycles in C parking lot. As part of "Wheels for Kids" day, each child will take home a new helmet, a certificate of completion of a bike safety rodeo and a bike they helped restore. The Habitat for Humanity chapter will sponsor a Habitat Run for Humanity 5K Race to benefit the service organization. The Fitz Center for Leadership in Community will work with faculty and staff to begin to rehab a house for "Rebuilding Together Dayton." Children from an area recreation center will be treated to a picnic and the Flyers noon baseball doubleheader with the University of Richmond. The Dayton Chapter of the National Alumni Association will host a 9:30 a.m. breakfast and Easter egg hunt for children of alumni. It's free, but reservations are required. Call 229-3299. The Student Government Association will spruce up the campus neighborhood through its annual "Greensweep" program.

A 15-member campus committee co-chaired by Dick Ferguson, Amy Lopez and Pat Palermo, is planning the slate of events to celebrate Curran's installation.

Curran is the first lay leader in the University of Dayton's 153-year history. The Philadelphia native became president on July 1, 2002, following a 23-year record tenure by Brother Raymond L. Fitz, S.M. Ironically, Fitz, the only other UD president formally installed by the board of trustees, was inaugurated on the same day — Friday, April 11, 1980.

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For media interviews, contact **Dick Ferguson**, director of the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, at (937) 229-5400, **Amy Lopez**, director of Kennedy Union, at (937) 229-3333 or **Pat Palermo**, associate provost for faculty and academic affairs, at (937) 229-2245.